THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL) is facing shortage of orders and thereby its capacity is under-utilized. However, there is no shortage of orders in Cochin Shipyard Limited at present and its capacity is fully utilized.

(d) Reasons for low capacity utilization, mainly, are weak order book position, indirect effect of under quoting of prices by major shipbuilding countries like Japan, Korea, etc. to secure shipbuilding orders, un-remunerative prices (unrelated to the actual cost of construction), heavy incidence of local taxes such as Sales tax, excise duty etc.

(e) In addition to the efforts made by HSL itself for full utilization of capacity, Government have assisted HSL in obtaining orders on nomination basis from various Ports as also from Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). On Ministry's request, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have considered HSL for placement of new orders from ONGC either on nomination basis or on preferential basis against its participation in tenders.

Disinvestment of Cochin Port Trust

2752. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to disinvest the Cochin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Port Trust will be handed over for the use of the proposed Vallarpadam Container Terminal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.